(a) whether it is a fact that there is a decline in tourist traffic to Gujarat during the last one year;

(b) if so, what is the total number of foreign as well as domestic tourists who visited Gujarat last year; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to promote tourism in Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK) : (a) As per the information available from the State Government, there was no decline in total tourist traffic to Gujarat during 1989. However, there was some decline in foreign tourist traffic to the State during the year.

(b) The number of foreign and domestic tourists who visited Gujarat during 1989 were 4,801 and 106,655 respectively.

(c) Steps taken to promote tourism in Gujarat, include continued upgradation of tourism infra-structural facilities with the assistance of Central Government and wide publicity of tourist destinations of Gujarat both within the country and abroad.

**Posting of Handicrafts Promotion Officers outside Delhi**

3503. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that two Handicrafts Promotion Officers selected by the U.P.S.C. with clear instruction for posting outside Delhi in Marketing and Service Extension Centre of the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) were absorbed in the Head Quarter Office at New Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that for their absorption in Delhi, two Senior Handicraft Promotion Officers were transferred outside Delhi, defying all norms; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir. UPSC gave no such instructions. However, it is true that two of the selected candidates were posted in Delhi.

(b) No, Sir. Only one Handicrafts Promotion Officer was transferred. No norms were defied.

(c) One Handicrafts Promotion Officer, who had been posted in Delhi for over 10 years, was transferred. He has also since been posted back to Delhi.

**Joint venture agreement of IPIC, Orissa with M/s. Novopanels India Ltd.**

3504. SHRIMATI MIRA DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that after obtaining letter of intent in December, 1982, the Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Orissa, a State Government undertaking entered into a joint venture agreement with M/s. Novopanels India Ltd., for setting up a project to manufacture Chip Board in the industrially backward district of Koraput;

(b) whether Government are also aware that an application for term loan submitted to the IDBI by the company for execution of the project is pending clearance since long, thereby delaying the project; and

(c) if so, what steps are contemplated by Government to expedite the matter ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) to (c) Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that Novopanels India Ltd., was promoted by Novopan India Limited and IPICOL in June, 1987 to set up a plant for the manufacture of particle boards at Pungar, Koraput District, Orissa. The promoters approached the institutions for financial assistance in September, 1989. After discussions the institutions felt that the project would not be support-worthy in view of its being wood based, likely difficulties in procuring raw-material and the use of second-hand plant and machinery.

IDBI has further reported that the company has subsequently requested for its application to be kept in abeyance.